

## CALIFORNIA WATER QUALITY MONITORING COUNCIL

### Monitoring Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Twenty-first Floor, Hearing Room  
State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance  
Renaissance Tower, 801 K Street, Sacramento



#### Monitoring Council Members and (Alternates) in attendance:

Robert Brownwood	(Greg Gearheart)	Phil Markle	(Shelly Walther)
Beth Christman	(Bruce Houdesheldt)	Armand Ruby	
(Rebecca Franklin)	Karen Larsen	(Ken Schiff)	

#### Others in attendance or (on the phone):

(Bev Anderson, State Water Resources Control Board)  
Shakoor Azimi-Gaylon, Delta Conservancy  
(Gina Benigno, California Department of Fish and Wildlife)  
Rich Breuer, State Water Resources Control Board  
Erick Burres, State Water Resources Control Board  
Valerie Connor, GEI Consulting  
Steven Culberson, The Interagency Ecological Program  
Gary Darling, Department of Water Resources  
(Jay Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute)  
(Ali Dunn, State Water Resources Control Board)  
Terry Fleming, US Environmental Protection Agency—Region 9  
Helen Fitantes, The Watershed Project  
(Paul Frank, Flow West)  
Matthew Freese, State Water Resources Control Board  
Rebecca Fris, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Michael Gardner, BNY Mellon Innovation Center  
Sarge Green, Past Council Member, California Water Institute  
Kamyar Guivetchi, Department of Water Resources  
(Tony Hale, San Francisco Estuary Institute)  
(Paul Hann, State Water Resources Control Board)  
(Matthew Heberger, Delta Regional Monitoring Program)  
Ray Hiemstra, Orange County Coastkeeper  
Rainer Hoenicke, Delta Science Program  
Campbell Ingram, Delta Conservancy  
(Paul Jacobs, Senate Office of Research)  
Kris Jones, Water Quality Monitoring Council, Department of Water Resources  
(Holly Jorgensen, Sacramento River Watershed Program)  
Wendy Killou, State Water Resources Control Board  
Brian Leahy, California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Candice Levesque, State Water Resources Control Board  
(Reggie Linville, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment)  
Jon Marshack, Water Quality Monitoring Council, State Water Resources Control Board  
Rafael Maestu, State Water Resources Control Board  
Christina McCready, Department of Water Resources  
Noelle Patterson, State Water Resources Control Board  
Marc Petta, State Water Resources Control Board  
Hilary Reinhard, Provost & Pritchard  
Vincent Resh, Delta Independent Science Board  
Erik Ringelberg, The Freshwater Trust

(Karly Rodriguez, 34 North)  
 Sam Safi, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
 (Linda Sheehan, Planet Pledge)  
 (Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project)  
 Meg Svoboda, Senate Office of Research  
 Jennifer Teerlink, California Department of Pesticide Regulation  
 (Chris Thomas, The Fresh Water Trust)  
 (Mark Tompkins, Flow West)  
 (Mike Urkov)  
 Amber Villalobos, California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Lori Webber, State Water Resources Control Board  
 (Jonathan Young, California Municipal Utilities Association)

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>INTRODUCTIONS AND HOUSEKEEPING</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	a) Introductions (in the room and on the phone) b) Review draft notes from the February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting c) Review draft notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting to which no comments were received, but inadvertently had not been approved; Council Members were polled by email; only two responses were received d) Review agenda for today's meeting	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	b) Approve February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting notes c) Approve February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting notes d) Preview what will be covered today and overall meeting expectations; adjust today's agenda, as needed	
<b>Attachment Links:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Notes from February 28, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Notes from the February 23, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Contact Persons:</b>	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	<a href="mailto:jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514 <a href="mailto:kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov">kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov</a> , (916) 376-9756
<b>Decisions:</b>	Meeting notes from both February 23, 2016 and February 28, 2017 were adopted without revision.	

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>PUBLIC FORUM</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Monitoring Council relating to any matter within the Council's jurisdiction under <a href="#">California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)</a> provided the matter is not on the agenda.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information and potential agenda topics for a future meeting. No decisions can be made regarding items that have not received prior public notice.	

<b>Attachment Link:</b>	<a href="#">California Senate Bill 1070 (Statutes of 2006)</a>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Jon Marshack	<a href="mailto:jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514
<b>Notes:</b>	No persons requested to address the Council.	

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES</b>	60 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>These are brief informational items that could be expanded into more detailed discussions at future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New Monitoring Council Member representing the Public (Karen Larsen)</li> <li>b) AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, implementation update (Jon Marshack, Kris Jones, and/or Tony Hale)</li> <li>c) My Water Quality connection to regional monitoring programs and their data display websites (Jon Marshack and Kris Jones)</li> <li>d) Human Right to Water connection to My Water Quality (Wendy Killou)</li> <li>e) STORMS pesticide monitoring data map on the Healthy Streams Portal (Noelle Patterson and Matthew Freese)</li> <li>f) Other brief announcements and updates related to the Monitoring Council's mission pursuant to Senate Bill 1070, Statutes of 2006</li> </ul>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Information and comment	
<b>Background:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b><i>New Public Member</i></b> – Sara Aminzadeh resigned from the Monitoring Council in late January 2016. Sara's alternate, Travis Pritchard, continued to serve until he left the San Diego Coastkeeper organization. An <a href="#">announcement</a> for this Council Member vacancy was widely circulated in November and fifteen candidates applied. Based on criteria outlined in the Council's <a href="#">Governance document</a>, candidates were vetted with a number of environmental organizations and the field of candidates was narrowed to three. Interviews were conducted in early March, and Ray Hiemstra of the Orange County Coastkeeper was <a href="#">recommended</a> by Monitoring Council Co-Chair Karen Larsen for approval by the Secretaries of CalEPA and the Natural Resources Agency.</li> <li>b) <b><i>AB 1755 implementation</i></b> – In September 2016, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (<a href="#">AB 1755</a>) was signed into law, requiring the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the Monitoring Council, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to create, operate, and maintain a statewide integrated water data platform; to develop protocols for data sharing, documentation, quality control, public access; to facilitate the use of decision support tools related to water data; and to submit a report to the Legislature on these activities. DWR seeks to work with the Monitoring Council, its other partners, and interested stakeholders to meet statutory requirements of AB 1755. DWR is gathering information in the form of data-driven-decision "use cases" through a series of workshops to inform the technical and functional requirements of the data platform and protocols required by the legislation. The Monitoring Council's Data Management Steering Committee has instructed the Data Management</li> </ul>	

	<p>Workgroup to begin developing relevant information to assist DWR. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup has submitted a “use case” example for consideration, based on their <a href="#">Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan</a>. DWR, the California Council on Science and Technology, and UC Water held the second of their Water Data Workshops on May 8 to explore use cases.</p> <p>c) <b>Regional monitoring data websites</b> – The Monitoring Council’s <a href="#">2010 Strategy</a> emphasized the need for its workgroups and portal development efforts to include a significant statewide focus. Since the Monitoring Council’s <a href="#">2014 Triennial Audit</a>, the Council has entertained the concept of including connections with monitoring efforts that are not necessarily statewide in scope. As a first step, a <a href="#">new page</a> on the <a href="#">My Water Quality website</a> now provides connections with a number of data-rich regional monitoring websites. Could the Council’s goal of improved access to data and information also be achieved through coordination with these regional efforts? During Item 5 of this agenda, or at a future meeting, the Monitoring Council may wish to explore what approaches should the Council and its workgroups take to further connect with these regional initiatives.</p> <p>d) <b>Human Right to Water</b> – At the December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 6 of <a href="#">meeting notes</a>), Wendy Killou of the State Water Board’s Division of Drinking Water presented a working draft of a new website intended to provide the public with information on compliance by drinking water systems throughout the state. The <a href="#">Human Right to Water Portal</a> was launched in early February of 2017. As an initial step in providing drinking water related information through the Council’s <a href="#">My Water Quality website</a>, a new <a href="#">“Is our water safe to drink?” web page</a> is being created that connects with the Human Right to Water Portal and other relevant drinking water related information.</p> <p>e) <b>STORMS pesticide data map</b> – At the December 13, 2016 Monitoring Council meeting (see Item 5 of <a href="#">meeting notes</a>), Noelle Patterson and Matthew Freese of the State Water Board’s Division of Water Quality presented an overview of the Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Storm Water (STORMS) and its water quality projects, including one related to pesticides in storm water. The Council instructed Jon Marshack to work with Noelle to add STORMS data to one of the My Water Quality portals.</p>	
<b>Attachment Link:</b>	<p>a) <a href="#">Letter to Agency Secretaries recommending Ray Hiemstra to fill the vacant Public Member position on the Monitoring Council</a></p> <p>b) <a href="#">Update: Assembly Bill 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act</a> – presentation by Jon Marshack <a href="#">AB 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act</a>, chaptered September 23, 2016</p> <p>c) <a href="#">Connection to Regional Monitoring Data</a> – presentation by Jon Marshack <a href="#">New My Water Quality web page linking to regional monitoring data websites</a></p> <p>d) <a href="#">Drinking Water Web Page</a> – presentation by Wendy Killou <a href="#">“Is our water safe to drink?” web page</a></p> <p>e) <a href="#">Priority Pesticides Mapping</a> – presentation by Noelle Patterson</p>	
<b>Contact Persons:</b>	<p>Jon Marshack</p> <p>Kris Jones</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a>, (916) 341-5514</p> <p><a href="mailto:kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov">kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov</a>, (916) 376-9756</p>

**Notes:**

- a) Karen Larsen mentioned that interviews were held to fill the vacancy for the Council member representing the public. However, she added that confirmation had not yet been received by CalEPA. Karen mentioned that she hoped to officially name the representative at the August Council meeting.
- b) Jon Marshack gave a [presentation](#) about the implementation of AB 1755, which is the first piece of legislation to reference the Monitoring Council since the Council's enabling legislation (SB 1070, 2006). Christina McCready and Gary Darling are the DWR point people for implementation. The presentation covered tasks of the legislation, parties responsible for completing those tasks and a schedule for completing them. Jon provided an overview of the two workshops, which were originally intended to contribute towards the California Water Plan Update. These workshops asked: who needs what data, in what form to make what decisions? Eight use cases were discussed between the two workshops. Next steps are to refine the eight use cases and determine their data requirements, potentially add more use cases and to hold a technical synthesis workshop (tentatively scheduled for July in San Diego). The Data Management Steering Committee has tasked the Data Management Workgroup with developing 1) Data Management Plan templates and guidance documents; 2) Open Data Handbooks for the Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife; 3) data sharing protocols; 4) data readiness assessments for organizations within CalEPA and the Natural Resources Agency; and 5) guidance documents for data literacy. The Data Management Workgroup welcomes any assistance in completing these deliverables. An outlet for public input is in development.
- c) Jon Marshack gave a [presentation](#) regarding connecting the Council's portals to other regional monitoring data platforms. In an effort to provide greater access to these data nodes, a page has been added to the [My Water Quality](#) homepage called, "Is There Monitoring Data Near Me?" The [page](#) lists a number of data-rich websites from regional monitoring efforts, and includes a link for suggesting additional websites. Currently there are no criteria for selecting which efforts to reference on this page. Jon emphasized that being included on the list does not represent the Council's endorsement of these efforts.
- d) Wendy Killou from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water gave a [presentation](#) regarding connecting the Human Right to Water Portal via the "Is Our Water Safe to Drink?" link on the My Water Quality [homepage](#). The webpage includes information regarding regulatory agencies, private well water, maximum contaminant levels, public health goals, and other information about drinking water contaminants. The right side of the page includes the Human Right to Water Portal where the public can access data regarding their drinking water, view maps, access compliance data, and access the Drinking Water Watch website. The Drinking Water Watch website allows users to query water data and to access Consumer Confidence Reports. Features enabling users to assess the accessibility, affordability and sanitation of drinking water are currently in development.
- e) Noelle Patterson from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Water Quality gave a presentation about priority pesticides mapping. The [interactive map](#) is now posted on the [Healthy Watersheds Portal](#). The purpose of the map is to illustrate pesticides water quality data that conveys the statewide scope of pesticides issues in urban surface waters. The displayed data is queried from Department of Pesticide Regulation's [Surface](#)



	<p><a href="#">Water Database</a>. The map displays pesticide concentration data for three urban priority pesticides: permethrin, bifenthrin and fipronil. Exceedance thresholds were derived from U.S. EPA Aquatic Life Benchmarks. It was suggested to add a TMDL layer to allow comparison with the benchmark layer. Noelle will be leaving the Water Board and Matthew Freese will be the new point of contact for this project moving forward.</p> <p>Jon Marshack then asked if anyone had additional updates to share. Karen Larsen indicated that at least one Board member recently asked her questions regarding the Council's efforts. She added that the Council is still on the radar of the Board members.</p>
<b>Action Items:</b>	<p>b) Kris Jones will distribute the use case template to the Monitoring Council's workgroup chairs.</p> <p>c) Kris Jones will add clarifying language to the new "Is There Monitoring Data Near Me?" page, which indicates that inclusion on the list of regional monitoring efforts does not represent the Council's endorsement of those efforts</p>

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>MONITORING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL/ECOSYSTEM INSTREAM FLOW COORDINATION</b>	40 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project provided an overview of efforts to develop a framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flow recommendations, followed by a discussion regarding potential Monitoring Council support for a new collaboration effort involving environmental/ecosystem flows and open data.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Monitoring Council endorsement of the use of the <a href="#">State Open Data Portal</a> and the Council's <a href="#">My Water Quality website</a> and the establishment of a new workgroup effort to facilitate knowledge transfer and data sharing on statewide environmental instream flows across agencies and programs.	
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Managing environmental instream flows in a state as diverse as California requires interdisciplinary and multifaceted technical approaches that are both scientifically rigorous and flexible enough to address the broad range of needs across the state. California's streams vary widely in terms of rain and snowfall patterns, geologic setting, and elevation and slope. Consequently, the ecological communities of concern vary and can include anadromous fish, migratory birds, benthic invertebrate communities, or riparian habitat. In addition, management pressures differ around the state based on land use, setting and social and economic pressures, and can include demands associated with agricultural diversions, dam and reservoir management, stormwater retention and reuse, timber production, and most recently irrigation of cannabis grows. A single approach to managing environmental instream flows is not practical considering this complexity and variability. A tiered framework for establishing statewide environmental instream flows has been developed by a team of technical experts representing academia, agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The framework is organized around a statewide stream classification based on dominant hydrologic processes. Screening level flow targets are developed for each stream class based on similarity of functional</p>	

	<p>flow elements to unaltered conditions for that stream class. More detailed watershed-specific flow recommendations can be derived based on methods and flow metrics that account for location specific physical and biological considerations, local management needs and constraints. The framework is intended to provide a way to facilitate coordination and information sharing on development and implementation of environmental instream flows across agencies and programs in California.</p>	
<b>Attachment Link:</b>	<p><a href="#">Overview of a Tiered Framework for Establishing Environmental Flows for California Streams</a> – presentation by Eric Stein</p>	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Eric Stein	<a href="mailto:eric@sccwrp.org">eric@sccwrp.org</a> , (714) 755-3233
<b>Notes:</b>	<p>Eric Stein of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project gave a <a href="#">presentation</a> regarding the development of a tiered framework for establishing environmental flows in California streams. Currently, there is no statewide effort for instream flows because California is complex in its geomorphology; it is difficult to balance environmental flow needs with a broad range of demands; there is no mechanism for coordination among agencies and the public; many different approaches for setting flow standards are being used; and issues vary across the state. There are many local and statewide efforts focused on environmental flows; however, Eric indicated that these efforts are largely disconnected and uncoordinated. For example, it was discovered that U.C. Davis and SCCWRP were simultaneously and independently working on developing instream flow standards for the state. Realizing this disconnect, a workgroup was formed consisting of several agencies that sought to take a more coordinated approach for developing a hydrologic classification systems and framework. The first product of the coordinated effort was the combining of U.C. Davis's classification map with SCCWRP's classification map. Other anticipated products include: first tier flow targets for each stream class, guidance for implementing site-specific environmental flow recommendations, case study applications in key areas and development of a website clearinghouse. Eric proposed forming a workgroup of the Monitoring Council and adding a portal for environmental flows to <a href="http://MyWaterQuality.ca.gov">MyWaterQuality.ca.gov</a>. The workgroup recommends the development of an Environmental Flows workgroup within the Council and suggests returning with a more detailed plan in three months. The Environmental Flows Workgroup would start with a core group and grow incrementally, adding key agencies. Ken Schiff suggested that Eric receive support from the Council to help him make connections with relevant efforts within our respective agencies, and have him return for the August Council meeting for an update. Karen Larsen later expanded this recommendation to request that Eric return for the August Council meeting with details regarding: 1) who would be involved in an Environmental Flows Workgroup; 2) the workgroup's objectives (e.g., what would they work towards and produce); and 3) the needs of the agencies the workgroup would address and support. Karen Larsen offered to help connect Eric with the Water Rights Division within the State Water Resources Control Board. Later, there was discussion regarding whether environmental flows fits within the Council's scope. The Council members requested that Eric try and address these concerns during his update in August. In addition to Eric's update, Karen Larsen also suggested that an additional item be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss the broader topic of whether environmental flows fall within the scope of the Monitoring Council. All agreed to this suggestion.</p>	
<b>Action Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Stein will return for the August Council meeting with details regarding: 1) who would be involved in an Environmental Flows Workgroup; 2) the</li> </ul>	

	<p>workgroup's objectives (e.g., what would they work towards and produce); and 3) the needs of the agencies the workgroup would address and support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Larsen will help Eric Stein connect with the Water Rights Division within the State Water Resources Control Board.</li> <li>• Kris Jones will develop an agenda item for the August Council meeting to discuss more broadly whether environmental flows falls within the Council's scope.</li> </ul>
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<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>PLANNING THE MONITORING COUNCIL'S FUTURE</b>	170 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	Jon Marshack and Kris Jones conducted a retrospective of the Monitoring Council's legislative charge and accomplishments to date, highlighting aspects that have worked and those that have hampered progress. They then led an open discussion on the future direction of the Monitoring Council, punctuated by perspectives from a variety of current and potential collaborators and clients.	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	<p>Provide direction to Council staff and fellow Council Members as to potential adjustments in approach and initiatives to enhance the Council's success. Questions the Council and its guests to consider included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What has worked well and what has not?</li> <li>2) Who should the Council serve? Who are its clients? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Who needs the Council and for what purpose?</li> <li>b) To whom should the Council report?</li> <li>c) How do we know if we are meeting their needs?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) What changes are needed in the Council's mission, focus, goals, and key initiatives? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How should the Council's workgroup efforts be adjusted to improve potential outcomes? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Could broader participation in the Council's workgroups help ensure that the perspectives of specific organizations are adequately represented and efforts are better serving their needs?</li> <li>ii) How should broader participation be achieved?</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) Could the Council's goal of improved access to data and information also be achieved through coordination with regional monitoring efforts?</li> <li>c) Should the Council's Strategy be updated to reflect these changes?</li> <li>d) Should cost estimates for the Council and workgroup efforts be revisited based on experience gained over the past nine years?</li> <li>e) What sources of funding are available and should be explored?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) Are changes needed in the Monitoring Council's membership? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What's in it for the organizations currently represented by the Council?</li> <li>b) Current membership was established to inform development of the Strategy. Does implementation necessitate adjustments to membership? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Should organizations that need to work better together, but are currently not well represented on the Council, be added?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	



	<p>ii) Is technical expertise needed in data management data sharing?</p> <p>5) Is new or updated legislation needed to effect change?</p> <p>6) What outreach is needed to increase awareness of the value of Council and workgroup tools, products and activities, and to attract greater participation?</p> <p>7) Should new tasks be assigned to the Council's staff?</p> <p>8) What additional actions can Council Members take to further the cause?</p>
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Since publication of the Council's <a href="#">initial recommendations</a> in 2008, and its <a href="#">A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</a> in 2010, the collaborative efforts of eight volunteer workgroups, staffed by issue experts representing key stakeholders from both within and outside state government, have significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of water quality and aquatic ecosystem monitoring, assessment and reporting in California. Method and data management standardization have improved data comparability and accessibility. Through these efforts, data and information are now more readily available to decision makers and the public as envisioned in the Council's enabling legislation, <a href="#">SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006)</a>, with numerous examples presented in the theme-based web portals at <a href="http://www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov">www.MyWaterQuality.ca.gov</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it safe to swim in our waters?</li> <li>• Is it safe to eat fish and shellfish from our waters?</li> <li>• Are our aquatic ecosystems healthy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wetlands</li> <li>○ Estuaries</li> <li>○ Streams and rivers</li> <li>○ Rocky intertidal coastal habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are harmful algal blooms affecting our waters?</li> </ul> <p>In the process, lasting relationships have been established between programs and agencies that better inform member organizations about each other's efforts, challenges, and potential solutions.</p> <p>As the result of our 2014 <a href="#">Triennial Audit</a> and feedback from CalEPA, The Council formed a Planning Subcommittee to explore changes to the Council's direction. The Planning Subcommittee met on November 16, 2015 (see <a href="#">meeting notes</a>) and recommended a more deliberative and opportunistic approach. Rather than attempting to address all beneficial uses of all water body types, greater emphasis should be placed on key initiatives important to the administration and delivering data and information to support departmental decision making. To attract additional participation, regional monitoring, assessment and reporting efforts and water supply issues relevant to water quality and ecosystem health should be explored. Portal development should not necessarily be a driver to improve monitoring, assessment and reporting. Instead, workgroups should strive to provide dashboards of information needed to inform key agency decisions.</p> <p>More recently, the Council and its workgroups have adjusted focus to enhance the delivery of data and information to inform decision-making in several key areas. The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup convinced a number of state agencies to include standardized language in their Proposition 1 Water Bond solicitations to ensure that grant recipients generate comparable data and submit those data to systems that make it readily accessible to others. The Estuary Monitoring Workgroup has partnered with the water contractors to develop web-based dashboards of information to help with adaptive management decision making in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Working in conjunction with</p>

	<p>the Water Boards' Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program, the Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network has developed a standardized system to monitor and assess harmful algal blooms and to engage water body managers, local health officers, and the public regarding the dangers posed by cyanotoxins. The Data Management Workgroup, guided by its new interagency Steering Committee, is developing a standardized understanding of key data management concepts and tools, as well as use-case information to help the Department of Water Resources implement AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act.</p> <p>During its February 28, 2017 meeting (see Items 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 of <a href="#">meeting notes</a>), the Monitoring Council discussed a number of key topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection criteria for a new Council Director</li> <li>• Implementation of AB 1755</li> <li>• The future of California's environmental data</li> <li>• Connection with data initiatives outside the Council or its workgroups</li> <li>• Monitoring Council membership</li> </ul> <p>Given that this will be Jon Marshack's last meeting as Council Director, the Council decided that the majority of the May 23 meeting should be devoted to a discussion of the Council's accomplishments since its inception and planning for the Council's future. A subcommittee consisting of Karen Larsen, Steve Weisberg, Bruce Houdesheldt, and Armand Ruby met with Jon Marshack and Kris Jones on March 10 to help plan the agenda for this meeting.</p>
<p><b>Attachment Links:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Planning the Monitoring Council's Future</a> – presentation by Jon Marshack and Kris Jones</li> <li>• Enabling legislation – <a href="#">SB 1070 (Statutes of 2006)</a></li> <li>• 2007 <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding between the California Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Agencies</a>, establishing the Council</li> <li>• <a href="#">Current Monitoring Council membership</a></li> <li>• 2008 <a href="#">Initial Recommendations to the Agency Secretaries</a></li> <li>• 2010 <a href="#">A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</a></li> <li>• 2014 Triennial Audit - <a href="#">Increasing Efficiency and Effectiveness Through Collaboration</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Legislative Priorities Spring 2016 fact sheet</a></li> <li>• 2016 Monitoring Council Workgroup Annual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Inland Beaches Workgroup</a> (Safe to Swim)</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Bioaccumulation Oversight Group</a> (Safe to Eat Fish and Shellfish)</li> <li>○ Safe Drinking Water Workgroup – not currently active</li> <li>○ <a href="#">Wetland Monitoring Workgroup</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Healthy Watersheds Partnership</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Estuary Monitoring Workgroup</a></li> <li>○ Ocean Health Workgroup – not yet convened</li> <li>○ <a href="#">California Cyanobacterial and Harmful Algal Bloom Network</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Data Management Workgroup and Steering Committee</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Water Quality Monitoring Collaboration Network</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Contact Persons:</b>	Jon Marshack Kris Jones	<a href="mailto:jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov">jon.marshack@waterboards.ca.gov</a> , (916) 341-5514 <a href="mailto:kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov">kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov</a> , (916) 376-9756
<b>Notes:</b>	<p>Jon Marshack gave a <a href="#">presentation</a> regarding the Monitoring Council's accomplishments thus far and planning for the Council's future. Jon reviewed the issues that led to the creation of the Monitoring Council. The Council's enabling legislation (<a href="#">SB 1070</a>) charged the Council with making initial recommendations (completed in 2008) and developing <a href="#">A Comprehensive Monitoring Program Strategy for California</a> (completed in 2010). Goals of the bill include: 1) monitoring and assessment are more efficient and effective through collaboration; 2) resulting data and information are made available to decision makers and the public via the internet; and 3) water quality projects financed by the state track effectiveness in achieving clean water and healthy ecosystems. Jon went over the Council's five-part strategy for addressing these goals, including: 1) a decentralized organizational structure; 2) a set of performance measures to evaluate and enhance efforts; 3) a single global point of entry to access data and information; 4) standardize only as needed to bring data together; and 5) develop data management standards for more efficient data access and integration. During the Council's first <a href="#">Triennial Audit</a> (2014), the Council and its theme-specific workgroups evaluated their successes and failures. The challenges identified during the audit included a lack of funding and personnel, as well as a need for a Council champion in the Legislature. In addition, the audit indicated that the Council has made amazing progress given it's limited resources, and that it is an outstanding example of collaboration and improved access to information. Jon indicated that in meetings with Cal/EPA Undersecretary Gordon Burns, the Council was encouraged to support high priority initiatives of the administration. Undersecretary Burns also questioned whether the Council is organized properly to implement its Strategy.</p> <p>The second portion of this item allowed open discussion among Council members and guests regarding the Council's future direction. Bruce Houdesheldt asked whether there are any metrics for the Council's portals—who uses them. Jon Marshack indicated that we could retrieve the google analytics and share that at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Steve Culberson indicated that the Interagency Ecological Program's (IEP) Data Utilization Workgroup (DUWG) has made considerable progress towards dealing with the challenges involved in managing their data and making their data more readily available. He mentioned that the help of Kris Jones and the Council's Data Management Workgroup have been invaluable towards moving their data initiatives forward. Kris Jones then mentioned that IEP is largely composed of agencies scientists—not trained data management professionals. He added that the Council's Data Management Workgroup has served as a bridge between agency scientists and IT/data management professionals. Kris suggested that the IEP is representative of many interagency efforts, which need support and guidance on how to approach there challenges relating to data management and data sharing—from an inter-agency perspective. He added that the Council's Data Management Workgroup could serve as a resource to support these initiatives.</p> <p>Karen Larsen then added that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has benefited considerably from the Council, greatly increasing their data transparency—making data more readily available for decision makers.</p>	

Sam Safi then indicated that he and other from the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District have appreciated the Council's open process; he added that he felt that it's important to have data presented accurately, and appreciated being able to participate in the process.

Linda Sheehan (former Council member representing the Public) addressed the question of who needs the Council and for what purpose—she suggested that we all do. Data helps to inform management decisions. She suggested that the Council needs to build stewardship for the Council's efforts—helping to ensure the public and decision makers are aware of our efforts. Considering the drought, she added that it is even more important to have access to water data.

Steve Culberson urged the Council to not just make data available, but to consider important management questions that need to be addressed and to focus our efforts where there are gaps. Parry Klassen (former Council member representing Agriculture) also highlighted the work of 34North and their efforts relating to the Estuaries Portal and Bay Delta Live. He encouraged the Council to document cost estimates for how much money is needed to develop these tools. Parry suggested that this would be useful for outreach.

Terry Fleming indicated that the Council's original goals were to try and improve the ability of agencies to address management questions. He highlighted the efforts of the Safe to Eat Fish workgroup—adding that different agencies have different ways to address these questions. The Council helped to start those conversations to bring those groups together to understand how to approach these challenges, in a coordinated way. He added that the Council has failed in the area of improving management design, which was one of the Council's original charges. He then highlighted that most of the agencies within CalEPA and the Natural Resources Agency that are identified in SB 1070 are not engaged in the Council or its workgroups—he encouraged the Council to reconsider its membership to include broader agency representation.

Several people suggested that the Council needs to consider who they serve. The legislature? Agency decision makers? Agency staff? The public? Knowing who the Council's serves could better enable the Council to refine its goals and objectives. Jennifer Teerlink indicated that the Council serves as a useful means to bring agency stakeholders together for coordination and collaboration, as well as to address data access challenges. However, she indicated that for groups like hers at the Department of Pesticide Regulation—they already make their data available—and will continue to do so. She added that it's not the fault of the Council why her group is not more actively engaged. Their simply isn't a huge benefit for them to get involved, at present.

Kamyar Guivetchi encouraged the Council to keep to its core competencies, including: 1) its convening power and its ability to engage different sectors (public and private); 2) its ability to make data more readily available; and 3) its ability to make data more usable, e.g., to better inform management decision. Kamyar also suggested that rather than building portals, perhaps the Council can empower others to set up their own portals.

There was also the suggestion to develop a survey to determine the needs of decision makers and agencies. What management questions or initiatives can the Council support? What data is needed for those efforts? What can the Council do to support those needs? Chris McCready also suggested having links on the portals, where users could also provide feedback. Did the portals answer their questions? What information did users hope to find, but could not? She added that this feedback could be quite useful.

	When discussing next steps, Karen Larsen suggested that a subcommittee meet before the August Council meeting to develop recommendations based on the feedback received during this item. She suggested including the same members who participated in the subcommittee discussion on March 10th (see Background; Karen Larsen, Steve Weisberg, Bruce Houdesheldt, Armand Ruby and Kris Jones). Greg Gearheart also offered to participate in these discussions.
<b>Action Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kris Jones will retrieve and synthesize the google analytics for the MyWaterQuality portals, to share at a future Council meeting.</li> <li>• Kris Jones will arrange a conference call with Karen Larsen, Steve Weisberg, Bruce Houdesheldt, Armand Ruby, and Greg Gearheart to develop recommendations based on the feedback received during this agenda item.</li> </ul>

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Approx. Time:</b>
<b>Title of Topic:</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING AGENDA</b>	10 minutes
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>Plan August 29, 2017 Monitoring Council meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Decide on location – Costa Mesa (SCCWRP) or Sacramento (CalEPA)</li> <li>2) Potential agenda topics include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continued Monitoring Council strategic planning</li> <li>b) EcoAtlas Business Plan (Tony Hale, Shakorra Azimi-Gaylon, Josh Collins, Melissa Scianni)</li> <li>c) Estuary portal enhancements – living resources and D-1641 Delta water quality report (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup)</li> <li>d) Estuary Portal – addition of other estuaries (Estuary Monitoring Workgroup)</li> <li>e) STORMs Monitoring Coordination Framework (Matthew Freese)</li> <li>f) Data management, quality, sharing, and visualization – related to AB 1755, initiatives of the Council's Data Management Steering Committed and Workgroup, the State Water Board and other departments and organizations, SWAMP (Greg Gearheart, Tony Hale, Melissa Morris, others)</li> <li>g) State stewardship for the National Hydrography Dataset by the Department of Water Resources (Greg Smith, DWR)</li> <li>h) Interagency Ecological Program governance model – fostering ad hoc teams for specific tasks (Greg Erickson and Sakura Evans of CDFW)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<b>Desired Outcome:</b>	Decide on the location and agenda topics for the August 29, 2017 meeting	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Kris Jones	<a href="mailto:kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov">kristopher.jones@water.ca.gov</a> , (916) 376-9756
<b>Notes:</b>	<p>Karen Larsen indicated that she would not be available for the August 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Council members agreed to have the next meeting in Costa Mesa (at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project). Given the change in location for the August meeting, Kris Jones will work with the Council members to select an alternative date to hold the meeting. Jon Marshack indicated that the next agenda should also include an item to provide feedback regarding the Wetland Monitoring Workgroup's business plan for EcoAtlas.</p>	



	<p>Since the meeting will be in Southern California, it was also agreed that the demonstration of the updated Estuary Portal could be postponed until the December meeting.</p> <p>Karen Larsen thanked Jon Marshack for his energy, hard work, and professionalism as Council Director—adding that the Council wouldn't be where it is today without his efforts. Other Council members and meeting attendees congratulated Jon on his well-deserved retirement.</p>
<b>Action Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kris Jones will communicate with Council members to identify an alternative date for the August Council meeting in Costa Mesa.</li></ul>

June 8, 2017

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